CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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Additional suggestions on underground nuclear explosions, following the Italian working paper (ENDC/234) of August 1968

(1) On August 23, 1968 the Italian Government submitted to the Eighteen Nations Committee on Disarmament some suggestions with a view to achieving partial progress in the field of the suspension of underground nuclear tests.

(2) Under Para. 3 (a) of the mentioned working paper it was suggested that "Governments responsible for underground nuclear explosions should act in a different manner according to whether nuclear explosions for peaceful or for military purposes are concerned. The former, before being carried out, should be announced to the United Nations with all the necessary details". Taking into account different opinions expressed on this subject, and also some important events that have since taken place - namely the approval by the United Nations General Assembly of the Non-Proliferation Treaty - it is now suggested that the notification envisaged in the aforementioned para. 3 (a) should, instead, be made to the International Service for nuclear peaceful explosions to be set up within the framework of IAEA (General Assembly Resolution 2456-C XXIII).

(3) Para. 3 (c) of the Italian working paper of August 1968 suggested that "Non-nuclear Governments, in their turn, should submit a list of experts to the Governments of the States where the nuclear explosions are to take place". In accordance with the suggestions set forth in Para. 2 hereof, it is further suggested that the proposed list of experts should be submitted instead to the IAEA.

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